Socialist Worker

Say No to Privatisation

Support the Refuse Collectors Strike in South Dublin

Over 1OO refuse collectors from South Dublin County Council have been on strike since February 7th.

They are on strike because the council broke an agreement on the introduction of new work practices.

The agreement which meant a reduction of the number of binmen on the routes and more work for those left behind was reluctantly agreed by the workers. The deal meant the workers giving up early finishing time and reducing the number of workers collecting from 105 to 65, covering 65,000 houses.

But this wasn't enough for the council. They reneged on a promise to give redundancy to any worker who wanted it, reducing the offer to between 1and 9 redundancy packages only. Workers guaranteed they would only have to cover 1,200 houses or two loads on each run are now being told that really means 2.5 or 3 lorry loads.

Over Christmas, the council also failed to implement a promise to collect refuse on the nearest Saturday when collection day fell on a bank holiday. This led to a huge backlog of bins to be collected which the council is trying to blame on the workers.

The workers are absolutely right to take strike action against the bully boy tactics of the council.

Councils Real Agenda- Privatisation

The real agenda behind the council's attacks is to move towards privitisation of local services. This will mean worse conditions for workers and poorer services for working class people.

They hope to break the refuse collectors in South Dublin County Council and then move onto workers in other council areas and in Dublin Corporation.
This is why the fight of refuse collectors in South Dublin is a fight for every council and corporation worker in Dublin.

What You can Do:

*Workers should organise to have one of the strikers address their workplace and take up solidarity collections.

*The possibility of taking some sort of solidarity action for their striking colleagues should also be discussed.

Time for an Alternative

The attacks on the conditions of refuse workers is another example of the betrayal of Labour and Democratic Left. Instead of standing up for workers they stand with the right wing parties in pushing through attacks on workers conditions. Everywhere workers are being asked to worker longer and harder in the name of profit.
We need to build a party that returns to the traditions of Connolly and Larkin, building solidarity for workers when they fight back. The Socialist Workers Party is building such an organisation. Join us.

Join the Socialist Workers Party

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_____

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